

Message Text

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43

ACTION ARA-10

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SUBJECT: ECHEVERRIA COMMENTS ON HUMAN SETTLEMENTS LAW

REF (A) MEXICO 4503; (B) DRYEPUSS/ESTEP TELCON 4/8/76

1. QUOTED BELOW ARE SELECTED EXCERPTS FROM COMMENTS
PRESIDENT ECHEVERRIA MADE APRIL 1 DURING PUBLIC MEETING
CALLED TO DISCUSS PROPOSED LAW ON HUMAN SETTLEMENTS.

--"(THE PEOPLE WHO ATTENDED THIS CLADESTINE MEETING)
HAVE A GREAT PREOCCUPATION, INSPIRED BY THEIR SYSTEM OF
WORK, IN THEIR PSYCHOLOGY, IN THEIR FAMILY LIFE, TO
IMITATE THE MOST DECADENT MODELS OF THE GREAT CONSUMER
SCIOIETY NEXT TO WHICH WE LIVE. THEY ARE NOW BUYING REAL
ESTATE IN TEXAS, CALIFORNIA, AND FLORIDA."

--"THE HISTORIC PROCESS PLACED US, JUST SIX YEARS
AGO, BEFORE THE DILEMNA OF IMMATURE GROUPS OR OF GREAT
ECONOMIC INTERESTS, WHO THOUGHT UNDER A FOREIGN INFLUENCY,
OR IN ANOTHER INFLUENCE OF A DIFFERENT KIND; IN GETTING
SUPPORT IN SOME EMBASSIES OR IN OTHERS, AT THE SERVICE OF
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FOREIGN INTERESTS.

--"TO THESE GROUPS...WE HAVE SAID THAT THEY OUGHT TO HAVE TIES WITH OTHER MEXICANS RATHER THAN WITH ABROAD..."

--(AFTER ALLUDING TO THE "HALCONES", WHICH HE CLAIMS WERE FINANCED BY BUSINESS GROUPS), ECHEVERRIA SAYS "AND THIS IS ALSO A DESTABLIZING TACTIC, AS THEY SAY, EMPLOYING MEANS OF PROPAGANDA AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF FOREIGN ORIGIN TO ALTER, HERE AND IN THE WORLF, GOVERNMENTAL TASKS WHICH SIMPLY HAVE LIBERALIZING OBJECTIVESM"

--" ...THAT WE OUGHT NOT TO CONFUSE, AS IN THE GREAT CAPITALISTIC SOCIETIES IN CRISIS AND IN DECADENCE, THE MEANS WITH THE ENDS"...

--"AND IN FORMS OF PROPAGANDA CARRIED OUT BY FOREIGN NEWS AGENCIES."

2. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH IRRITATING, THESE REMARKS ARE VINTAGE ECHEVERRIA. THE PRESIDENT IS NOT SUGGESTING THAT THE US WAS DIRECTLY INVOLVED, RATHER, BY ASSOCIATING HIS OPPONENTS WITH "FOREING" INTERESTS HE HOPED TO ISOLATE THEM POLITICALLY AND PUT THEM ON THE DEFENSIVE. NEVERTHELESS, WE MUST RECOGNIZE THAT THE "CRIME" OF WHICH THE PRESIDENT'S OPPONENTS ARE ACCUSED IS BASICALLY THAT OF SEEKING TO PRESERVE CERTAIN US-STYLE INDIVIDUALIST VALUES IN THE FACE OF THE SOCIAL WELFARE PRIORITIES WHICH ECHEVERRIA TOUTS AS BEING MORE GENUINELY MEXICAN. IT WAS THIS SAME XENOPHOBIC THEME WHICH PRI PRESIDENT MUNOZ LEDO PICKED UP IN HIS APRIL 4 SPEECH WHEN HE SAID THAT THESE "BAD MEXICANS" WERE ALLIED "SPIRITUALLY AND MENTALLY WITH THE METROPOLIS." THOMPSON

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